

2012 General Assembly Archive

Voices for Virginia's Children, Campaign for Children's Mental Health

For children's mental health, the focus in the 2012 General Assembly session is all on the budget. The Campaign's two big priorities this session are child psychiatry demonstration projects and crisis response demonstration projects. Governor McDonnell did not include funding for children's mental health services in his proposed budget; however, he did submit an executive amendment after the session started that adds \$500,000 GF each year of the biennium for mobile crisis teams for children. Here are the details of the budget amendments for which the Campaign is advocating.

Child Psychiatry Demonstration Projects

Senate Patrons: Hanger, Howell (Item 315 #6s)

House Patron: O'Bannon (Item 315 #3h) Co-patrons: Bell, Richard, Brink, Hope, Ingram, Landes, Watts

This amendment provides **\$1.4 million GF each year** to establish five child psychiatry demonstration projects. Funding will be used to create a project in each health district by hiring one individual for each region to direct the provision of clinical services in person or through telemedicine and provide extensive training and consultation with other children's health care providers (e.g., general practitioners, pediatricians, nursing practitioners, and community service boards staff) to increase their expertise in the treatment of children with mental health disorders.

Crisis Response Demonstration Projects

Senate Patrons: Hanger, Howell (Item 315 #7s)

House Patron: O'Bannon (Item 315 #4h) Bell, Richard, Brink, Hope, Ingram, Landes, Watts and (Item 315 #8h) Patron: Englin, Co-patron: Herring

This amendment provides **\$16.3 million GF each year** to establish children's mental health crisis response projects in each health district (5 total). Each project will include a mobile crisis team and crisis stabilization unit. Mobile crisis teams are comprised of clinical and case management staff, including a child psychiatrist, that can assess, triage, and provide treatment services for a child in different settings such as home, school, after school programs, detention centers or other community location. A crisis stabilization unit is a short-term, residential option available to children who have been assessed by the mobile crisis team and determined to need more comprehensive services.

Here are other budget amendments we are following: [2012 GA Budget Amendments](#)